

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed January 15, 2004. In the Office Action, claims 2-3, 6-7, 9-10, 12, 15-17, 21-22 and 24 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has placed claims 2, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18 and 21 into independent format including certain limitations from claims 1, 1&5, 1&8, 11, 11&14, 11 and 19, respectively. Independent claim 19 has been amended to include limitations from originally filed claims 23 and 24. Reconsideration of the claims as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 11, 16, 17, 23 and 24 have been cancelled without prejudice and claims 26 and 27 have been added.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims and a timely Notice of Allowance if the claims are considered to be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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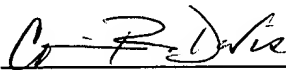
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